

November 5, 2001

William Novelli, CEO  
AARP  
c/o Modern Maturity  
601 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20049

Dear Mr. Novelli:

A recent article published in the September/October 2001 edition of the Modern Maturity Magazine was brought to my attention by a concerned Mississippian. The article was titled "God's Mean Acre" by Terry McDermott and addressed the Supreme Court Case of *Reeves versus Sanderson*. Attorney Kenneth Rector, raised in Lowndes County, Mississippi, was offended by some of the negative descriptions of Mississippi that were used in the article.

The purpose of this letter is to address the use of such derogatory statements when referring to the State of Mississippi. Some of the comments made, such as "Most of Mississippi is dirt poor..." and "Nothing in Mississippi qualifies as rich..." are very uncharacteristic of Mississippi. As a matter of fact, Mississippi is rich in many areas, including literary and musical talents, educational accomplishments, its great hospitality and generosity, as well as a number of economic successes.

I am sure all Mississippians would have more appreciation for future articles that focus on the more positive opportunities that Mississippi provides for its citizens, in all areas of life. We are "rich" in many ways and I am sure that a visit to the "Hospitality State" would prove as much to any person who took the time to visit.

Very truly yours,

RONNIE MUSGROVE

RM/kfg

cc: Terry McDermott  
Kenneth Rector